

Appl. No. : 02/34288
Filed : January 09, 2002

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

10. (Amended) A method of continuous metering of bulk material from a source container with a rotary-vane feeder and a metering device fed by the rotary-vane feeder, comprising:

setting a feed rate for the rotary-vane feeder; and

adjusting a discharge rate of the metering device to a value that is lower than the feed rate of the preceding rotary-vane feeder, so that return feed from the rotary-vane feeder to the source container takes place.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said adjusting takes into account a filling state of an intermediate container between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising altering a speed of rotation of the metering device to regulate discharge of the metering device.

13. (Amended) The method of Claim 10, further comprising using a pneumatic feed, and altering at least one of an air amount and an air speed to regulate discharge of the metering device.

Please add the following new Claims:

19. (New) A method of continuous metering of bulk material from a source container with a rotary-vane feeder and a metering device fed by the rotary-vane feeder, comprising:

setting a feed rate for the rotary-vane feeder; and

adjusting a discharge rate of the metering device to a value that is lower than the feed rate of the preceding rotary-vane feeder in accordance with a filling state of an intermediate container arranged between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device, so that return feed from the rotary-vane feeder to the source container takes place.